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Year in Review – ASWA

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

ASWA—By VERA JEAN BOBSENE, National President, 1951-52

The fourteenth year of the American Society of Women Accountants ended on June 30, 1952, and with it my year as National President of this Society, an honor of which I have been very proud. One of the rewards of my year as president will be the pleasure of seeing many of our members at the National Convention, which is the grand finale of every administrative year. This is a joint convention of the American Society of Women Accountants and the American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants, and will be held October 2-5, 1952, in Houston, Texas, at the fabulous Shamrock Hotel.

At the convention, the final and complete report of the activities and accomplishments of the 1951-52 fiscal year will be presented at the annual business meeting to be held on October 4, 1952. I shall now briefly report on only the highlights of the year, with emphasis on the major accomplishment of the year—the expansion of the services of the National Office.

As of July 1, 1952, the first big step toward ultimate centralization of procedures in the National Office at 342 Madison Avenue, New York City, will have been taken. A great deal of thought, time and effort has been expended by the National Officers in cooperation with Helen Lord, National Office Manager, in the transfer of certain duties of the National Secretary and the National Treasurer to the National Office. It is a pleasure to inform the membership that the following duties of these two officers will be assumed by the new full-time employee in the National Office at the beginning of the new fiscal year:

NATIONAL SECRETARY:

- (1) Maintenance of permanent membership file
- (2) Distribution of membership cards to chapters
- (3) Preparation of Membership Report
- (4) Yearbook

NATIONAL TREASURER:

- (1) Receipt of dues
- (2) Posting of dues to membership card file
- (3) Billing of members-at-large

This transfer of duties to the National Office will not only relieve these two Na-

tional Officers immeasurably, but will also accomplish the following results:

- (1) Eliminate the duplication of duties among National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Membership Chairman, and National Office.
- (2) Abolish the need for constant checking by letter among the above-mentioned officers.
- (3) Reduce the number of copies required of various printed forms now in use of the Society.
- (4) Reduce the number of carbon copies required of letters written by the chapters.

This administrative year will be unique in that this will be the first year under the delegate system of voting. As you will recall, the National Bylaws were revised at the last annual business meeting held in Washington, D. C., on October 6, 1951. The amendments adopted at this meeting changed the system of voting from voting by membership to voting by delegates at national meetings of the Society. To assist the chapters in providing a method of selecting delegates in their chapter bylaws, a model set of chapter bylaws, including a section on "Representation," as well as all other changes necessitated by the amendments to the National Bylaws adopted as of July 30, 1951, was sent to each Chapter President in January, 1952. This revised model set of chapter bylaws was prepared by the National Bylaws Committee, consisting of Eunice Moseley, Chairman, Hazel Scott, and Ruth Clark, all of Los Angeles, California. Because of the revisions to the National Bylaws in the year 1951, the bulk of work undertaken by the National Bylaws Committee has been tremendous in that it was necessary for this Committee to review and check the bylaws of 32 chapters, which amended their chapter bylaws in accordance with changes in the National Bylaws.

This has been a year of "first times," as this is the first year in which the retiring National President automatically became Chairman of the Advisory Committee, which is composed of the chapter presidents. Grace A. Dimmer, past National President, has held this chairmanship this year and has enjoyed acting in an advisory capacity to the chapter presidents.

The Award Committee accomplished this year an objective long desired by this Society, which is the rendering of a monthly report to the chapters, showing the accumulated points of each chapter. Lillian Boyd of Atlanta, Georgia, Chairman of this Committee, worked in cooperation with Elizabeth Sterling of the same city, who was the AWSCPA Award Chairman, in attaining this objective. The monthly report has further stimulated the competitive spirit among the chapters in attempting to win the AWSCPA silver trophy. This trophy is the reward for the chapter which obtains the highest number of points for certain prescribed and special activities as set forth in the AWSCPA Award Rules and Regulations. As a result of the competition for the trophy, the activities of the chapters have increased tremendously in scope.

In conjunction with the AWSCPA Legislation Committee, the ASWA Legislative Committee, headed by Frances McNamara of San Francisco, has written letters to Congressmen urging them to support the passage of the Equal Right Amendments in its original form.

Louisa Davis, Indianapolis, served as Membership Chairman for the second year and has screened applicants in accordance with recent changes to the membership section of the National Bylaws, which now requires two ASWA sponsors for each prospective member and United States citizenship for new Regular, Associate, and Junior members. A new class of membership, "International Associate," has been created for women who are not citizens of the United States. More than 260 new members have been admitted to membership this year.

Publicity Chairman, Vivian Warner of Muskegon, Michigan, has reported that an increasing amount of publicity has been attained by all chapters from newspaper and radio releases.

Advance-planned programs were received from most of the chapters this year, according to Marguerite Gibb, Program Committee Chairman, and the chapters seem to be experiencing little difficulty in arranging interesting programs and securing competent speakers. One of the duties of the program committee is to plan one technical program for the national convention. Chapters were asked to express their preferences for a subject for such a program.

At the West Coast Regional Conference held in Hollywood, California, in June, 1951 it was suggested by those present that a resolution presented by Dean Stuart, President of the Long Beach Chapter, regarding

discrimination against women in the accounting and auditing positions under Federal Civil Service be submitted to the National Research Committee for further study and investigation. The National Board of Directors approved the submitting of this resolution for further study to the Research Committee, of which Elizabeth Brownlee of the Terre Haute Chapter is Chairman. The Committee has been working on this assignment in cooperation with the AWSCPA Research Committee.

A special committee composed of Helen Lord, National Office Manager, and Alice Aubert, was appointed to employ an administrative assistant to Helen Lord on a full-time basis at the National Office in New York City. This committee completed its assignment with the hiring of an employee in January, 1952.

Gertrude Priester of New York City was reappointed as Chairman of the National Convention Committee. It is the function of this committee to recommend locations for conventions and regional conferences and act in an advisory capacity to the local convention chairmen. This Committee is now preparing a manual of procedure for the guidance of local convention chairmen in arranging future conventions.

Helen McGillicuddy of Chicago and Ruby Roach of Washington, D. C., were appointed to consider and report on incorporating our Society in the District of Columbia. It is hoped that the actual incorporation can be accomplished in the near future.

The National Secretary and the National Treasurer have been laboring under a mass of detail this year, some of which will now be eliminated with the centralization of certain procedures in the National Office. Both of these officers, who are members of the Executive Committee, have been particularly helpful in effecting these changes.

During the year two infant chapters have sprouted, one in Portland, Oregon, under the sponsorship of the Seattle Chapter, and one in Houston, Texas, which is flowering under the care of Heloise Brown, C.P.A., our 1951-52 Convention Chairman. The new Houston Chapter will receive its charter in the very near future.

Two Spring Regional Conferences were held in May and June of this year. The May conference was held in Toledo, Ohio, on May 23, 24 and 25, 1952, at which the Toledo Chapter was hostess. The June conference was held in Sonoma, California (approximately 45 miles northeast of San Francisco) on June 13, 14 and 15, 1952, at which the

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AWSCPA—(Continued from page 4.)

Study of Civil Service Regulations to determine if any discriminations exist against employment of women for accounting positions. Result: Because of the late start, information is incomplete, but will be made available to incoming Board for its further study and action, if necessary.

SPECIAL—Ethleen Lasseter, Chairman

Study of proposal to amend By-Laws of the Society to reinstate therein a provision for the formation of local Chapters. Result: Study completed. Report will be submitted to members at an early meeting.

PUBLICATIONS — Helen McGillicuddy, Editor; Helen Lord, Business Manager

Continued efforts to maintain the quality and circulation of *The Woman CPA*. Circulation remained fairly constant, and quality was praised by those contacted by the Public Relations Committee in its project to revise the mailing list.

CONVENTION—Heloise Brown, Chairman

Outstanding work in planning the Joint Annual Meeting to be held in Houston in October. Result: Those who have been kept current on plans are unanimous in their feeling that this will be one of the outstanding meetings, and one that no member can afford to miss.

PERMANENT CONVENTION—Gertrude Priester, Chairman

Compilation of a manual for the future guidance of all convention and regional conference committees. Result: Completed, pending various joint society resolutions to be included therein.

AWARD—Elizabeth Sterling, Chairman

Selection of the joint committee was made from members of the two Societies residing in one locality. This has made possible monthly meetings of the Committees. Result: Prompt reporting of monthly results to Chapters, and smooth administration of the award rules.

OTHER MATTERS

Recognition has come to the Society from outside the United States. Accounting societies of Paris, Madrid, and Bruxelles have added its name to their mailing lists. The Contadores Publicos Titulados of Mexico have honored the Society with a request that the biographies of several of our members be submitted for inclusion in the Who's Who Section of their bulletin. The women accountants of Mexico, also, have taken an active interest in our joint societies and have requested advice on the formation of a similar society in their country. The University of Mexico honored

Heloise Brown, our delegate to the Second Inter-American Conference on Accounting held in Mexico City in November, 1951, by presenting her with one of the gold medals awarded at that conference.

* * *

The success of any program is contingent on the willingness of members to participate in the work of the Society. Elsewhere in this publication, you will find the names of your incoming officers and directors. Many of them served as officers and directors during the period 1951-52 and I commend them to you as qualified and willing workers. You are urged to cooperate fully with them, for only by working for the Society will you develop the interest in it which is so necessary for its continued progress.

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ASWA—(Continued from page 6.)

San Francisco and Oakland Chapters were co-hostesses. These conferences not only offer technical programs in accounting, but afford an excellent opportunity for the exchange of ideas among chapters and the discussion of problems.

In the international field of accounting, our Society was represented by Paula E. Reinisch of Grand Rapids, Michigan, at the Second Inter-American Conference in Accounting which was held in Mexico City in November, 1951. Helen F. McGillicuddy, C.P.A., Editor of *The Woman C.P.A.*, represented *The Woman C.P.A.* There is a possibility of having an international affiliate sometime in the future, as a woman C.P.A. in Mexico City, Senora Refugio Roman, C.P.T., is now attempting to organize in Mexico a women's accounting society similar to our own.

A "Year in Review" would not be complete without mentioning the American Society of Women Accountants' most important public relations project which is the bi-monthly bulletin, *The Woman C.P.A.*, published jointly with the American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants. Helen F. McGillicuddy faithfully continued in her capacity as Editor of this publication. Three new associate editors were appointed with the joint approval of the AWSCPA President, and performed a commendable service. Helen Lord again efficiently handled the business management of the magazine.

In closing this "Year in Review," an expression of sincere appreciation is extended to all who have contributed so generously of their time and effort in making it possible to accomplish the aims and objectives of this past year.